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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP
INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Albania ✓

SUBJECT Information on the Armed Forces

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SUPPLEMENT

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Army

1. Organization

- a. The Albanian Army is composed of a Hqs in Tirana, four divisions and one tank brigade. Each division is formed of three brigades, the twelve brigades of the Army being numbered from 1 to 12. The division is under the command of a general and the brigade under a colonel. Each brigade has three battalions, each battalion four companies, of which two are infantry, one artillery and one assault troops.
- b. The total strength of the Albanian armed forces is placed at 60,000 of whom 15,000 are in the DMP, not more than 1,000 in the Air Force and Navy, the remainder forming the Army. The strength of a division is approximately 5,000, brigade 1,500 - 2,000, battalion 500-600 and company, except for the assault troops, 120-150. The infantry company is formed of four platoons, each of three squads. In peacetime the platoon is commanded by a Warrant officer. The company is commanded by a captain; with a lieutenant or second lieutenant as deputy commander.
- c. General mobilization would mean the following establishments:

Division	9,000
Brigade	3,000
Battalion	1,000
Company	250

Albania could mobilize about 100,000 men, of whom 30,000 would be used in the DMP and the remainder would form the Army, Navy and Air Force, as well as all the services. The present four divisions could become seven or eight at the most in the event of an emergency.

- d. One artillery company is formed of three batteries: One battery of four or five guns (medium caliber), usually horsedrawn; one battery with three or four anti-tank guns of varying caliber;

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one battery of four or five AA artillery guns of varying types and caliber. Artillery companies have no fixed establishments and the number of men varies with the number of guns, often differing one company from another. Artillery services are performed with mules and carts as trucks are rare.

- e. The assault companies are composed exclusively of Communists or Partisans. They are called "Sulmues" and before being posted to units attend a special six months training course. Some of these courses take place outside the country. They appear to be up to strength, with 250 men in each company, armed only with automatic weapons and small mortars.
- f. Instructors in the Albanian Army are nearly all Russians or Slavs. The Russians generally instruct recruits, while the Slavs deal with technical subjects and supplies. They wear their normal uniform.

2. Armament

Numerous weapons of all types have arrived from Russia during the last few months. The infantry company has 70 percent Russian weapons, including the latest patterns and 30 percent war booty, Italian or German. Personal weapons are nearly all automatic.

3. Tank Brigade

- a. The Tank Brigade has its headquarters in Tirana and is formed of about 150 tanks of varying types, divided into two groups, of which the main one comprises 50 Russian 40-ton tanks of a new model, recently provided by Yugoslavia, with six Italian self-propelled guns of unspecified caliber. The other groups have about a hundred tanks, Italian and German, usually salvaged from the battlefield. Among these are Italian five-ton tanks, Italian medium tanks, and allegedly ten German Tiger tanks. It has an unspecified number of small caliber anti-tank guns, drawn by trucks, which also carry personnel and stores of the Brigade. There are 200 such trucks.
- b. The Tank Brigade comes under the direct orders of Armed Forces Hqs. Its tanks are being used against the Nationalist forces but groups of the Brigade also perform tasks of political propaganda and intimidation. Towards mid-June 1947, immediately after the failure of the military coup d'etat, a large part of the brigade remained in Tirana, while the rest of the formation was spread out over the main towns.

d. Locations

Army Hqs	Tirana
1st Div	Tirana
1st Bde	Tirana
2nd Bde	Durazzo
3rd Bde	Vlone
2nd Div	Soutari
4th Bde	Soutari
5th Bde	Peshkepi (Episkop)
6th Bde	Kukes

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3rd Div	Korce
7th Bde	Korce
8th Bde	Derat
9th Bde	Elbasan
4th Div	Gjinokaster
10th Bde	Gjinokaster
11th Bde	Permet
12th Bde	Ursko
Tank Bde Hqs	Tirana

Units of the 4th Div have been moved to the immediate vicinity of the Greek frontier.

Defenses

1. General

Since March 1946, all former Italian and German defense works have been repaired by the Albanians. At the present moment all defenses in the coastal belt are efficient, and weapons that were damaged or too old have been replaced by Russian guns sent by sea from Yugoslavia. As a rule Albanian units are garrisoning these defenses but Russians and Yugoslavs are located in some places such as Saseno and the Karaburum peninsula (Akrokoravnia Ori). It appears that all activity to reactivate former defenses has been the wish of foreign powers, which have also given and still give material, specialized personnel and arms.

2. Durazzo

Along the coastal belt from the mouth of the Drzen river, north of Durazzo, to Kep i Lagit (Cape Laghi) in the South, all Italian fortifications have been repaired and weapons, even Italian, have been repaired and overhauled. The positions in this area are mostly open concrete emplacements or built in rock. The open concrete emplacements which have guns of varying caliber (naval and siege guns) have tranches and at least three or four positions for AA guns with ammunition. These positions are garrisoned by Albanian soldiers and are located as follows:

- a. 100 meters from the coast at the mouth of the Drzen, two guns in open concrete emplacements, one north and the other south of the river.
- b. Kep i Palit (Cape Pala): along the coast which follows the peninsula, from Pala to height 36, there are guns in nine emplacements as above, one of which is on the tip of Kep i Palit.
- c. Spittal area: West of this place, on the west side of the hill between Spittal and the sea, 100 meters from the coast, there are two emplacements as above at a height of about 50 meters and about 100 meters from each other. They have been built on a terrace dug into the side of the hill and are easily visible.
- d. Height 184 at Fali Durcit (sic): S.W. of Height 184 and 100 meters from the sea, there are three emplacements as above.
- e. Point-West of Durazzo: on the West side of the rocky hill which drops down to the sea, emplacements in caves have been dug, each

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one with an Italian gun (76 mm). The nine emplacements have been dug in three lines of three, one above the other.

- f. Durazzo: in the Roman fort there are three guns of unknown caliber; three others are in emplacements in concrete, 500 meters N.W. of the Fort.
- g. Rastbul: On the Durazzo-Shijakut road, about two and one half kilometers from the junction with the Durazzo-Kavajë road, there are two concrete emplacements with medium guns north and south of the road at a point where the road enters a cutting.
- h. North of Sassobianco: in the valley where there is an unnamed river, near the east side of the Durazzo-Kavajë road, there is a gun of unknown caliber. This emplacement is in concrete and as well as barbed wire, trenches etc., has 10 emplacements for AA MGs, linked together with trenches. AA MGs are 20 mm Breda.
- i. Between Gezsaraj and the above mentioned valley, on a line about one kilometer from the road, there are eight open concrete emplacements with medium guns, about 200 meters from each other at a height varying from 40 to 60 meters. As well as the usual three or four MGs there is also AA ammunition.
- j. Between Gezdaraj and Paljama (sic) following the above mentioned line, there are five emplacements in concrete of which three contain medium coastal guns and AA guns of unknown type.
- k. The bridge over the Erzen on the Durazzo-Shijakut road, and the railway bridge over the Erzen near Barakcja have been mined.
- l. The coast between Durazzo and Kep i Lagit is still mined. Mine lifting is progressing slowly owing to the large number of accidents that have happened.

3. Vlonë

Owing to the presence of small lakes in the Vlonë area as natural obstacles, defenses are few. There are defense works, however, along the roads.

- a. The road from Vlonë to Fier is flanked on its eastern side along the whole of its length by open and covered concrete and stone emplacements for MGs and artillery, trenches, barbed wire, etc. Artillery emplacements are camouflaged and have communication trenches and dug-outs.
- b. Artillery is chiefly concentrated between the bridge over the Vijose, which is mined and guarded at Levani. There are about 20 76 mm (Italian Naval guns) and German 88 mm guns.
- c. In the Levani-Fier sector, the defenses leave the road and follow the heights to the west of this road. In the immediate vicinity of Fier there are also AA batteries. A look-out post with two twin barreled AA MGs is sited west of Pojan, about 500 meters from the village.
- d. Along the Vlonë-Martë road diggings and barbed wire have been reported. All defenses north of Vlonë are guarded by Albanian soldiers.

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4. Karaburun Peninsula (Akrokeravnia Ori)

It is a military area, from which all civilians have been evacuated, and is garrisoned by Russian and Yugoslav units. It is rumored that large defenses are being built here, which would explain the numerous cargoes of cement and miscellaneous material including telephone wire and pipes of all diameters which are sent to the small ports on the coast of the peninsula.

5. Saseno

Of all the defense works on the island only nine coastal guns at Punta Nord were destroyed by the Germans, all other defenses remaining more or less intact. In March 1946, the Albanian Government ordered the dismantling of the fortifications but after eight days of work, during which all machinery in the repair shops and a part of the electricity station were removed, a counter-order was received and the laborers immediately began to repair and finish defenses. By mid-August 1946, all work had finished.

a. On 19 August 1946 the first convoy of 12 rafts left Vlone for Saseno, carrying 20 vehicles covered with canvas, accompanied by more than 100 Russian soldiers. Other convoys followed, apparently always carrying the same type of material and men. The trucks returned to Vlone after a few days, empty, but Russian soldiers were rarely seen returning from the island. Russian and stores are still being sent to the island. All defenses built by Italians on the island are efficient and garrisoned. Old weapons have been repaired or substituted with others.

b. There is a dump of about 50,000 mines in the island, probably lifted from all over Albania.

Police

6. The Security of the State is the task of the Ministry of the Interior. It is performed by two police bodies:

DTP (Divisioni Dretjtjes Popullit) Gendarmerie (Division for the Defense of the People)

Drejtorinat e Brendoshme (Directorate of the Interior).

There is also a Police school as well as a Prison Directorate.

7. DTP - Total strength is approximately 20,000 and in case of emergency could reach 30,000.

There are ten DTP brigades, located as follows:

a. 1st Bde	Tirana
2nd Bde	Durazzo - I Bn Durazzo
	II Bn Kavaje
	III Bn Kruje
3rd Bde	Vlone
4th Bde	Scutari
5th Bde	Gjinkaster
6th Bde	Korce
7th Bde	Elbasan
8th Bde	Berat
9th Bde	Kukes
10th Bde	Peshkopije

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- b. The brigade has three battalions but the strength of these units is not stable and varies in accordance with the importance and size of the area of jurisdiction. The battalion at Durazzo has 1,200 men but that in Kavajë has 900 and the one in Krujë 800. A brigade is commanded by a Major and is often referred to as a regiment.
- c. Conditions for entry into the DTP require the qualification of Partisan or membership of the Communist Party. Recruits are on probation for four months before being accepted in the DTP.

8. Drejtorinat and Mbrendeshme

This Directorate for the Interior is a police organ of political police, keeping a watch on all that goes on in the country and outside it. All its members work in civilian clothes and are Commissars, Vice-Commissars, Inspectors, and Vice-Inspectors. They sometimes operate with the DTP, who also wear civilian clothes on such occasions. It is formed of 10 area Commands (Shtesioni Mbrendeshme), each of which has jurisdiction on the province and which is divided into Commissariats, sub-Commissariats, Groups and Nuclei. The main offices of the Directorate are formed of political offices, investigation offices, criminal offices, tax offices, legal medicine and others. It is rumored that Russian officials are actually directing the Interior. Volunteers are admitted into the police after a course of four months in the Police School.

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